

A SOCIAL ECONOMIC STUDY OF A CHINESE NEW VILLAGE

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Synopsis

The researcher would like to thank his former Chinese new village is an area of study that is so very often neglected by both researchers local and foreign. This study seeks to study a few socio-economical aspects that is present in a Chinese new village. This new village is situated in Selangor. The study also strives to find out the factors stimulating the developments of this new village. Moreover, it also seek to study the values the residents of this particular new village attached to their jobs, education and other aspects of socio-economy. Finally it also compares the new village of yesteryears with that of today to see the difference between them and to detect the changes going on.

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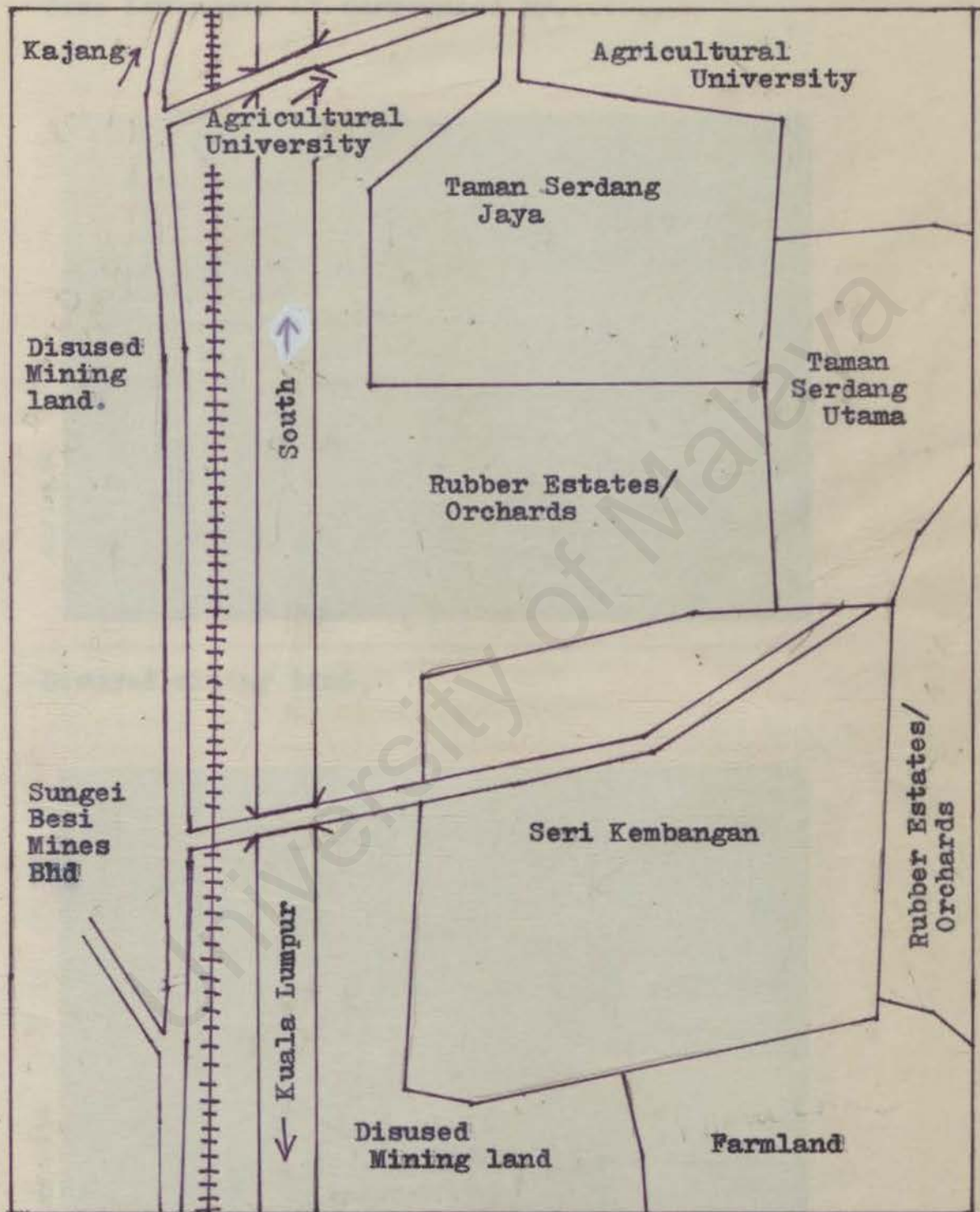


Figure I : Seri Kembangan and its surroundings. (Not to scale).

Seri Kembangan is surrounded by.....



Disused mining land,



Vegetable farms,

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New housing estates,

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and rubber estates.

ry School

of roads and places of
is found next page)
scale).

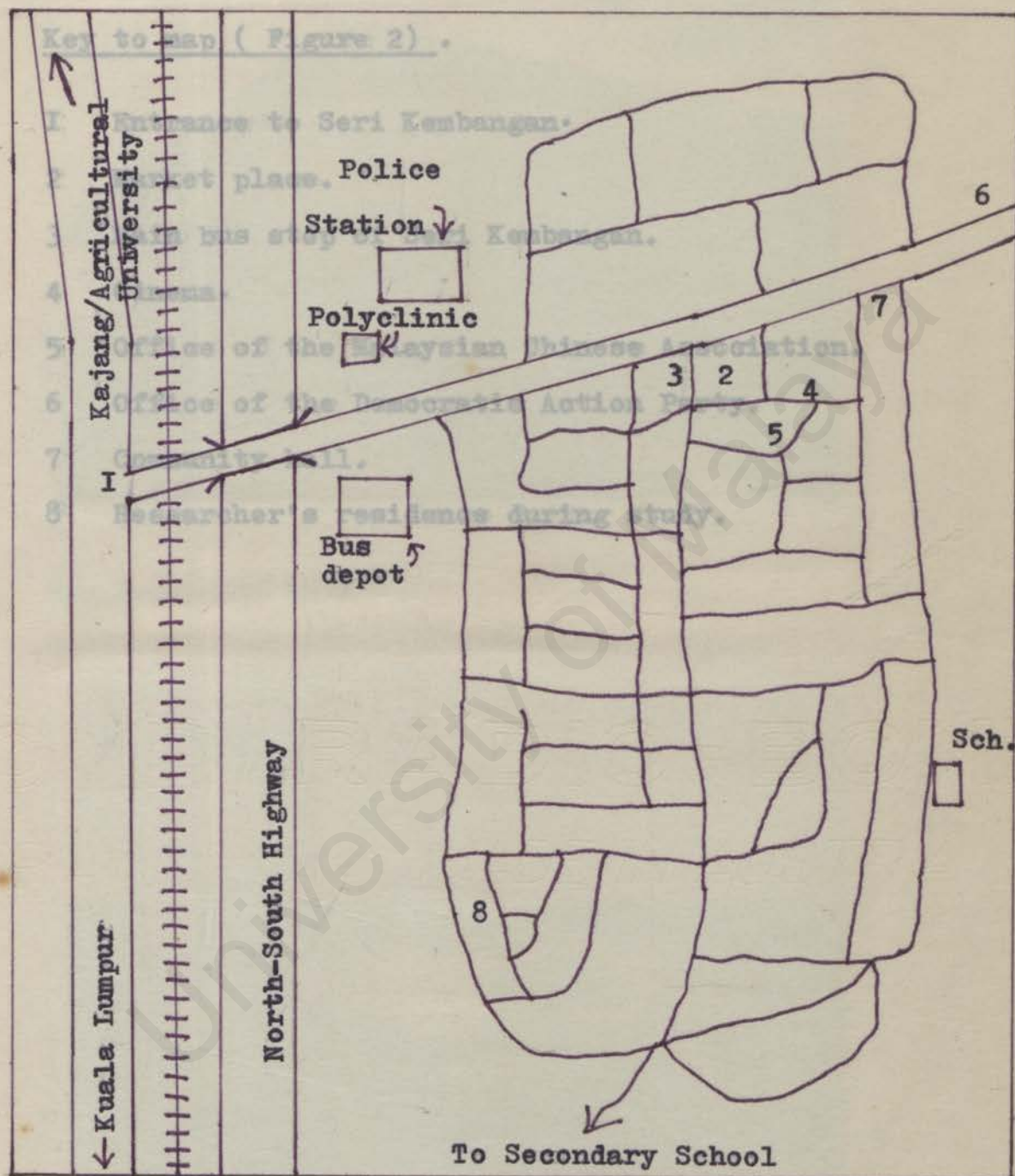


Figure 2: Seri Kembangan; Network of roads and places of importance. (Key to map is found next page)
 (Note: This map is not to scale).

Key to map (Figure 2) .

- 1 Entrance to Seri Kembangan.
- 2 Market place.
- 3 Main bus stop of Seri Kembangan.
- 4 Cinema.
- 5 Office of the Malaysian Chinese Association.
- 6 Office of the Democratic Action Party.
- 7 Community hall.
- 8 Researcher's residence during study.



The Community hall



A section of Seri Kembangan

Introduction

I.1 Background.

On June 16th 1948, following the outbreak of armed revolt by the Malayan Communist Party (MCP); a state of emergency was proclaimed in Malaya. The MCP intended to overthrow the existing British colonial government and replace it with a "Malayan People's Republic."

Chapter I

Introduction

Its strategy was one of rural guerrilla warfare and in this regard the MCP naturally turned to the rural dwellers for recruits, food, information and other supplies. A major aspect of British counter-insurgency strategy, in turn, was the resettlement of about 1.2 million rural dwellers. This strategy, widely known as "The Briggs Plan" ultimately regrouped 550,000 people in rubber estates, tin mines and around existing towns. Another estimated 573,000 people, 85 % of whom were Chinese, were resettled into 480 "New Villages."

Introduction

I. The Background.

On June 16th 1948, following the Emergency period outbreak of armed revolt by the Malayan Communist Party (MCP), a state of emergency was proclaimed in Malaya. The MCP intended to overthrow the existing British colonial government and replace it with a " Malayan People's Republic." The British strategy was one of rural guerilla warfare and in this regard the MCP naturally turned to the rural dwellers for recruits, food, information and other supplies. A major aspect of British counter-insurgency strategy, in turn, was the resettlement of about 1.2 million rural dwellers. This strategy, widely known as " The Briggs Plan " ultimately regrouped 650,000 people in rubber estates, tin mines and around existing towns. Another estimated 573,000 people, 85 % of whom were Chinese, were resettled into 480 "New Villages." These are historical and political in nature rather than the socio-economical aspects.

I K.S. Sandhu, " Emergency Resettlement in Malaya," Journal of Tropical Geography, Vol. 18, August 1964; 157-183.

The Chinese New Village is a social phenomenon created out of historical happenings in Malaya during the Emergency period in Malaya's history. Well coordinated attacks on plantations, police stations and other locations of strategic economic and political importance had forced the military administration of Malaya to counter the terrorists' movements. The steps taken were to cut off the supply line so vital to maintain further insurgencies of the terrorists. The Briggs plan was implemented and new villages were created to house people living at the fringes of rubber plantations and other isolated areas. The majority of these people were Chinese. Because they were considered by the authorities to be the main sympathizers of the communist movement, they had to be resettled in ill-planned new villages whose main objectives were security and control over subversive elements rather than proper basic amenities and housing for its inhabitants.

for their novels and some even used it as a story-line for their novels. (Chapman : 1957).

What had become of the people staying in the new

I.2 Objectivity of study.

Many studies had already been done on aspects of new village living. However, emphasis had always been placed on topics that are more historical and political in nature rather than the socio-economical aspects.

Strauch, wrote on local-level politics and its impli-

focus specifically on aspects such as literacy, family cations on national politics. A detailed description was given on the local political scene in a new village in Perak, the state with the most number of new villages. New villages' structures were mentioned and discussed as in relation to how it pertained to the national scene. (Strauch : 1957). Other books such as Nyce's centred on the social institutions of new villages at the time of their formation without going into the depths of social traits existing in new villages then. (Nyce : 1973). Many other books centred on the resettlement problem and whether it was done under the most inhumane conditions.

Throughout the years, researchers had studied the importance of Chinese new villages on national politics, how inhumane it was to resettle a frightened people contrary to the widely held belief that they were communist sympathizers. Novelists had even used the Chinese new villages' scenario as a background for their novels and some even used it as a story-line for their novels. (Chapman : 1957).

What had become of the people staying in the new villages? Have they discarded the social traits and values they possess at the time of resettlement or are these values and traits been passed to their children?

Through this study, it is hoped that some light can be thrown on the above questions posed. This work will

focus specifically on aspects such as literacy, family structures, work, migration and also general conditions prevailing in new villages. A comparison is drawn between the literacy level of the pioneer new villagers and their ^{children} to see if there was any visible improvements in their literacy level. A comparison is also made to see if new villagers still adhere to the same type of education their forefathers had or are there any shift toward the local education system. Family structures are studied to examine whether new villagers practices the extended family system or the nuclear ^{family} system as is commonly found in Chinese families. The question of work is also posed to examine whether there is a connection between the working life of adult new villagers and their migration patterns. Finally general socio-economic ^{-a)} aspects are touched upon to examine the financial conditions of the new villagers. of a questionnaire were conducted. It must be stressed that due to the lack of time and also its limited academic requirements, this study is not conclusive but rather it serves as a pilot-study which of hopefully can be used as a guide for further studies into aspects of new village living. households are able to furnish the necessary answers to the questions asked. Moreover the cause of fear in respondents suspecting that the survey is an official survey by the government seeking for information that could be used against him, This is so because

I.3 Research Methodology.

Research methodology used in a survey to gather data is equally as vital as the objective itself because research methodology employed will affect the results which in turn bear effect on the conclusions. A combination of anthropological and sociological methods were used incorporating structured and unstructured questions. The researcher carried out exploratory studies before actually indulging in the more organised study of the respondents. A series of four weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) were spent in the new village exploring the possibilities of studying various aspects of new village life.

On the actual study, the researcher spent three weeks staying in a former classmate's house located in the new village. Interviews with the aid of a questionnaire were conducted on a total of forty households. The advantages of using these questionnaires were numerous. Conducting the interviews with a questionnaire ensures that only the head of households was allowed to answer the questions. This is required because only heads of households are able to furnish the necessary answers to the questions asked. Moreover the sense of fear in respondents suspecting that the survey is an official survey by the government seeking for information that could be used against him, is minimized. This is so because

the interview is guided by the questionnaire and thus the respondent is able to assess for himself the types of questions asked without being fearful.

Another visible advantage is that respondents who are unable to read and write can be interviewed and information gathered from them. This is quite true as a substantial proportion of the respondents could not read and write in Bahasa Malaysia or English Language. Another advantage of using structured questionnaires in interviews is that questionnaires are more likely to be completed compared to the case of mailed questionnaires where respondents more often than not adopt a "couldn't care less" attitude. Moreover with a questionnaire, a uniform set of questions is being posed^{to} every individual respondent resulting in comparability in data collection.

However there are also limitations present in usage of a questionnaire. Non-verbal behaviour of respondents cannot be recorded in questionnaires. Certain information especially on the ^{not} history of the origin of the new village, which respondents are ^{not} ready to impart cannot be recorded into questionnaires. Subsequently, new information surfacing during the actual survey which are ^{not} encountered or anticipated during the exploratory study could not be recorded in questionnaires. Therefore supplementary notes had to be added to the questionnaire.

To overcome this weakness of the structured questionnaire, observation is employed. Observation enabled the researcher to depend on non-verbal sources of behaviour. Certain information which respondents are not ready to impart can be obtained through this method. A very good example of this was the observation that many of the new villagers had obtained state land illegally and converted them into orchards. This is an additional source of income. Therefore it is imperative to conclude that observation and interview are complementary to one another in this particular research.

such difficulties as an interpreter need to be found. The language barrier does not arise with the middle-age and younger residents of the new village as they are quite conversant in Cantonese apart from Hakka. Cantonese became a common language which was used to interview the respondents. To overcome the problem of conversing with respondents who are not conversant in Cantonese, a chief informant was interviewed in the form of a former classmate of the researcher proved to be of tremendous help.

1.4 Problems encountered in Fieldwork.

All researchers face problems and in this research some common problems surfaced again while other non-recurring problems also exist.

Official records do not exist in this area of research especially on the history of the origin of the new village.

With no official records to refer to, the researcher had to rely on information gathered from elders of the new village. Informal interviews were held at coffee-shops and also at the local office of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA). Present day official statistics especially governmental statistics such as aids granted and plans. The fact that the MCA office is near the market square fur-

for developments were obtained from the state Assemblyman, himself a resident of the new village. 2 community where

Another common problem is the language barrier. Although the researcher is of Chinese origin, (the same as people in area of study) the difference lies in that the researcher is of Hokkien descent while Hakka is the dialect more commonly spoken in the research area. The acuteness of this problem is especially felt when interviewing older folks in the new village. They, the older folks could not converse in any dialect other than Hakka and this posed much difficulties as an interpreter need to be found. The language barrier does not arise with the middle-age and younger residents of the new village as they are quite conversant in Cantonese apart from Hakka. Cantonese became a common language which was used to interview the respondents. To overcome the problem of conversing with respondents who are not conversant in Cantonese, a chief informant cum interpreter in the form of a former classmate of the researcher proved to be of tremendous help.

2. Although two different political parties maintained offices in the new village, the MCA office is more often the hub of activities, perhaps due to fact that the State Assemblyman and also the Member for Parliament are MCA candidates. The fact that the MCA office is near the market square fur-

Strangers to the new village are often viewed with suspicion as this is quite a closely-knitted community where everyone knows practically everyone. However, accompanied by the chief informant, these suspicions were somehow minimised. The existence of numerous dogs in practically every household posed a problem as their barking aroused the suspicions of tenants long before the researcher approaches the house. This could be a leftover of early days when terrorists approached the new village and dogs were kept to serve as an early warning against strangers and also for protection.

I.5 Sampling.

A total of forty questionnaires were completed. The new village is divided into eight sections for administrative purposes. From each section a number of five respondents were chosen to present a general picture of the area of research.

....-ther contributes. The office of the other party (Democratic Action Party) though lies in the main street is situated about 100 metres away from the market square.

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Two views of orchards converted from state land obtained illegally for additional income

Community Profile

2.1 Locality

The research area is situated to the south of Kuala Lumpur in a new village known as Seri Kembangan, formerly known as Serdang Bahru. This village is founded in 1952 in the aftermath of the declaration of the Emergency and it is located on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur and lies in the state of Selangor. Seri Kembangan lies about 25 kilometres along the Community Profile linking Kuala Lumpur to Seremban. The nearest town is Kajang, about 8 kilometres away. Regular bus services to Seri Kembangan are monopolised by the Toong Fong Omnibus company. The company plys 3 different bus routes going to or passing Seri Kembangan in its itinerary.

Bus route no. 104 goes directly to Seri Kembangan (hereby known as S.K.) at regular half-hourly intervals. Bus route no. 107 goes to the Agricultural University about 3 kilometres from S.K. and passes the market square and main street of S.K. The route operates at hourly intervals. Bus route no. 116 goes to Balakong New Village about 8 kilometres away from S.K. and also passes through S.K.'s market square and main street on its return journey at hourly intervals. Taxi drivers of Kuala Lumpur are willing to go ^{to} S.K. at Kuala Lumpur taxi rates. All bus services to

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II

S.K. starts at Puduraya bus terminal in Kuala Lumpur. 3

There is no direct bus service to Kajang even though there is a road leading to Kajang town via the North-South Highway. The entrance to S.K. leads to an adjacent road joining the North-South Highway. S.K. is situated in the midst of tin mines, rubberestates and the Agricultural University. (See Map).

2.2 Infrastructure

S.K. is an area made up of approximately 2,500 legitimately titled land and having a population of nearly 14,000 people.

Basic amenities provided by the authorities through the years includes roads, electricity and piped water for almost every household. S.K's physical structures are like many other new villages that started in the aftermath of the Emergency period. As a result of hasty implementations, many basic amenities and basic infrastructures of this new village are inadequate. Houses are built on lots allotted to settlers, often clustering together like concentration camps. A basic lot initially most probably will consist of a house with a living room, three to four bedrooms and a kitchen. Occasionally one or two trees can be found on its rather small frontyard. The whole structure of the house not inclu-

there are only a few badminton or basketball courts in the village. Most of the courts are found in the various schools. ding the frontyard will most probably measures 18 feet by 48 feet, about 850 square feet area.

Houselots in S.K. are issued with 30 to 60 years leaseholds. These leaseholds are renewable after their expiry date. Life in the new village is centred at the market square. It is here that business establishments, restaurants and also political parties' offices are found. Being the hub of activities especially during the daytime, the market square naturally becomes the main bus stop. The market square is an area which consists of the market itself, the community hall, the bus station and also a local cinema which features second rated movies. The community hall built in 1958 is used for functions such as local council meetings, celebrations for Chinese festivals and also rented to be used as a dining hall during marriages. It is also used as a sports complex by the youth in S.K. who finds sports facilities in S.K. very lacking. Apart from this "Sports Complex" public examinations. Yearly about 40 % of SRP (Sijil Rendah Pelajaran) and about 30 % of SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malay-

3. At the time of research, taxi rates for Kuala Lumpur taxis are 70 cents for the first mile and 30 cents for every subsequent half mile or 2 minutes. Bus fare from Puduraya bus terminal to the market square is 80 cents. The nearest major hospital is the Universiti Hospital about

there are only a few badminton or basketball courts in the village. Most of the courts are found in the various schools. There are 3 schools in S.K. Two of them are private Chinese vernacular schools which were taken over by the government. At present, these schools teaches all subjects in Bahasa Malaysia except English Language and Mandarin. The third school is a secondary school with classes from Remove class to Form 5. Children from S.K. and other surrounding areas usually attends primary school at these two vernacular primary schools. They later transfered themselves to the school secondary[^] to continue their secondary school education. However there are instances where students do not study at these schools at their parents' insistence. These children commute daily to attend schools in Kuala Lumpur. This arise from the prejudice that these schools in S.K. are inferior to the schools in Kuala Lumpur. These prejudices are further strengthened by the results of the students performance in public examinations. Yearly about 40 % of SRP (Sijil Rendah Pelajaran) and about 30 % of SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia) candidates passes their examinations, a poor comparison with the average schools in the Federal Territory.

Though S.K. is in the Petaling Parliamentary constituency, the nearest hospital is the Kajang district hospital. The nearest major hospital is the Universiti Hospital about

Another main infrastructure is the road systems. As mentioned earlier S.K. lies in the midst of tin mines and rubber estates. Through political and economic necessity, the government had built an excellent network of roads facilitating the communications of S.K. and Kuala Lumpur. Along the North-South Highway about 2 kilometres from the entrance of S.K. lies the Sungai Besi Mines, the largest and one of the world. This is a rather significant factor. A doctor administers medical services to patients.

An area behind the polyclinic with rows of barracks and a building forms the police station. Barbed wires still prevents illegal entry. Entry can only be made through the main door. The police personnel and their families live within the perimeter of the police station.

At the time of study, the drainage system of S.K. were being repaired and upgraded. More and more new villagers are discarding the bucket system for the flush toilet system.

As more and more new villagers are turning to flush toilet system, the government is spending more in these drainage systems. 4

4. A budget of 2 million ringgits had been allocated by the state government to upgrade the drainage and road system of S.K. in 1982/1983. This information is revealed by the state Assemblyman. people in professional positions, skilled and semi-skilled labourers, clerks, factory workers and

Another main infrastructure is the road systems. As mentioned earlier S.K. lies in the midst of tin mines and rubber estates. Through political and economic necessity, the government had built an excellent network of roads facilitating the communications of S.K. and Kuala Lumpur. Along the North-South Highway about 2 kilometres from the entrance of S.K. lies the Sungei Besi Mines, the largest tin mine in the world. This is a rather significant factor as a substantial number of workers from this mine comes from S.K. The network of roads enables the workers to commute daily to their working place and also to the Federal Territory. Inner and connecting roads are smaller compared to the Highway at the entrance. These roads are mainly single-laned all-weather roads and along these roads on both sides are built houses.

2.3 The People.

S.K.'s populace is made up of people with all sorts of occupations. The older folks made up of first and second generation of " Hua Chiao's " (Overseas Chinese) are mainly employed in the tin mines and semi-skilled jobs. Their children who were born in Malaysia during and after the resettlement are more selective in their occupations. Among them can be found people in professional positions, skilled and semi-skilled labourers, clerks, factory workers and

also teachers. They no longer turn to the rubber estates or farms of their parents and as a result of these, many rubber estates and farmland are left idle. This will be further discussed in later chapters. Chinese new villagers can no longer be considered poor as more and more of them are able to afford to possess the luxuries of life. In practically every household, there is a television set, a hi-fi or a mini combo set and occasionally a refrigerator. Moreover the majority of households own a motor-cycle or a car.

There is no exact data on the composition of the age-group distribution but an estimation was made with the help of the state Assemblyman who estimates about 30 % of the people in S.K. are of voting age (above 21 years of age). This figure is an estimation from the last election registration exercise. (1982).

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The roads of S.K. are being upgraded

3.1 Personal bio-data of respondents and spouses.

The first part of the questionnaire is made up of questions asking for personal bio-data of respondents interviewed.

Chapter 3

Personal bio-data of respondents.

Age of respondents.	No
26-30	1
31-35	1
36-40	2
41-45	3
46-50	11
51-55	3
56-60	4
61-65	4
66-70	1
Total No. of respondents	40

Table I: Ages of respondents according to age-group.

The average age of respondents who were heads of households was 48 years old. Within the research sample, the ages range from 28 years to 70 years. These figures will be further discussed with connection with figures from table 2.

Most part of the respondents were in their early middle life or early twenties when they started into the work.

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Ages of respondents.	No
26-30	I
31-35	I
36-40	2
41-45	13
46-50	11
51-55	3
56-60	4
61-65	4
66-70	I
Total No. of respondents 40	

Table I: Ages of respondents according to age-group.

The average age of respondents who were heads of households was 48 years old. Within the research sample, the ages range from 28 years to 70 years. These figures will be further discussed with connection with figures from table 2. That most of the respondents were in their early marriage life or early twenties when they shifted into the new village.

No of years	Respondent (%)	Respondent's wife (%)
0-5	-	3
6-10	-	-
11-15	3	17
16-20	10	20
20-30	87	60
Total(%)		
N=40	100	100

Table 2: No of years respondents and spouses had stayed in S.K.

Table 2 provides information on the length of time respondents had stayed in S.K. 90 % of respondents interviewed indicated that they had spent the major part of their lives living in S.K. 73 % of respondents' spouses indicated they too had spent the major part of their lives in S.K. The most common reason given by respondents for staying in S.K. is that they were compelled to do so by the authorities. Most of them or their ^{parents} hail from nearby areas before living in S.K. As can be seen from table 1 and table 2, it can be perceived that most of the respondents were in their early marriage life or early twenties when they shifted into the new village.

Table 3: Literacy rate among respondents.

Another implication is that rather minimal migration from places outside S.K. into the new village occurred. However the more important question in this case is whether there is any outward migration. This question will be further dealt with in later chapters. But as it is, it would seem that outward migration is not common amongst the older folks (heads of household) and whole families but rather amongst the younger residents. Another rather interesting figure is that compared to the heads of households, a larger proportion of wives indicated that S.K. is not the place where they had lived the longest. This portion of the respondents gave the reason as marriage and thus following their husbands.

3.2 Literacy and Education of respondents and spouses.

Able to Language	Speak (%)	Read (%)	Write (%)
Chinese only	30	57	47
Chinese and Malay	50	3	3
Chinese, Malay and English	20	13	13
None	-	27	37
Total(%)	100	100	100
N=40			

Table 3: Literacy rate among respondents.

Percentage who are

Literate	69
Semi-literate	4
illiterate	27
Total (%)	100

Table 4: Rural Chinese distribution of population

by literacy in any language. (Census:1980).

According to the United Nations guidelines, literacy is defined as the ability to read and write. A person is regarded as literate if he can, with understanding, both read and write a short simple statement connected with his own everyday life. Therefore, a person is able to speak any language or languages apart from his or her own mother tongue but cannot read or write in any language even his or her own mother tongue is regarded as an able to illiterate. (Chander:1972)

The above definition is an important definition to state as many of the respondents interviewed are able to speak in more than one tongue but not able to read or write in any. There are also those who are able to speak and read in more than one language but unable to write in any. These individuals shall be considered as semi-illiterates

in this particular research. The above table 3 is a tabulation of data obtained only from heads of households who are all males. It can be perceived that the literate (can read and write) of these respondents amounted to 63 %, a figure obtained by adding those who are able to write in in any language. The rationale of doing this is that all those who able to write in a language should be able to speak and read in that particular language. This figure 63 % is slightly lower than national statistics (1980 census) corresponding with the literates among rural males. (69%) However a figure of 10 % semi-illiterates, obtained by comparing the figures of those able to write (63%) to those able to read (73%). Thus a difference of 10% is obtained. It is interesting to note that this 10% is obtained through those who are able to read only Chinese but not write in that language. English and only 13 % read and write in the language.

Finally we come to the illiterates, those not able to read or write in any language even though they are able to speak in more than one language. From table 3, the figure 27 % under the 'read' column and corresponding 'none' column indicate those who are not able to read in any language. This figure of 27 % is also obtained by subtracting 10 % (semi-illiterates) from 37 %, the figure indicating those who are not able to write in any language. Therefore the composition of male literacy in S.K. is as follows. the police and government personnel.

Literates	63
Semi-literates	10
Illiterates	27
Total(%) N=40	100

Table 5: Levels of literacy of respondents in S.K.

It is also interesting to note that the percentage of those able to speak Malay whether fluent or otherwise is 80 %, a rather high percentage considering the fact that less than 1 % of the populace of S.K. is made up of Malays and more ^{than} 99% of the populace being Chinese. This could be due to working conditions when they need to use Malay to communicate. 5

English, the language of the colonial masters is not so widely spoken as Malay. Only 20 % of the male respondents speaks English and only 13 % read and write in the language. (refer table 3).

5 S.K. is located in an area where there are also Malay villages and Indian villages. To communicate with either of these people , Malay seems to be the best lingua franca to be used. Moreover, in places of work, interaction with races other than Chinese forced these villagers to learn how to speak Malay fluently or otherwise. Malay is also used when communicating with authorities especially the police and government personnel.

3.3 Education

	Respondent	Respondent's wife
No Schooling	23	57
Primary/Informal	60	40
Secondary	17	3
Tertiary	-	-
Total (%)	100	100
N=40		

Table 6 : Level of Education among respondents and spouses.

Under the topic of education will be discussed the educational attainment of respondents and their spouses. As there are no national censal figures on this particular area for meritable comparison, therefore there is no accompanying table. However comparison can be made in the sense of comparing the educational levels of the respondents with that of their children. As there is no reliable data on the educational attainment of respondents' parents ie the first generation ' Hua Chiao ' there can be no statistical comparison in this area. However, the general view among respondents is that their educational attainment is much better than that of their parents. In fact of 4 respondents' parents whom the researcher managed to interview, only 1 of them had attended schooling of any kind.

The reasons for the disparity in the educational levels between the respondents and their parents can be attributed to historical reasons. Initially when the respondent's parents come to Malaysia (then Malaya), educational opportunities are not as readily available as during the times of their sons. This is because when they came, they came as labourers intending to look for fortunes and after that return back to China to their families. Education then serves no purpose as the Chinese educational system back home does not help them in many ways in daily living in Malaya. However as time goes by when more and more Chinese settled in Malaya the need of education arise and as such more and more are being educated. The marginally higher figures for males being educated as compared to the females shows that education among males are more readily advocated than among females. Very few females were given the chance to pursue academic excellence as they were seen to be more fit to be just wives for bearing children and as mothers caring for their children.

It is interesting to compare the educational levels of respondents and their children and this will be done in the next chapter.

4.1 The children of respondents.

In the previous chapter, emphasis was placed on the educational levels and literacy of respondents and their spouses. Children of new villages born after resettlement and who grew up in these environments are a worthy lot to be studied. In this chapter, emphasis will be placed on the children, their educational achievement and also the environmental factors affecting level of achievement.

Chapter 4

The new generation in New Villages.

On the average, each family in S.K. had 5.3 children. There is no national statistics in this area to be used as a comparison as to whether this particular figure of 5.3 children per family is higher or lower than the national average.

No of children per family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
No of families with corresponding number	1	1	3	3	11	5	3	-	2	-	1

Table 7: No of children per family

Referring to table 7, it can be seen that families with 5 children are the most frequently found category.

4.I The children of respondents.

In the previous chapter, emphasis was placed on the educational levels and literacy of respondents and their spouses. Children of new villages born after resettlement and who grew up in these environments are a worthy lot to be studied. In this chapter, emphasis will be placed on the children, their educational achievement and also the environmental factors affecting level of achievement.

On the average, each family in S.K. had 5.3 children. There is no national statistics in this area to be used as a comparison as to whether this particular figure of 5.3 children per family is higher or lower than the national average.

No of children per family	I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
No of families with corresponding number	I	I	3	3	II	5	3	-	2	-	I

Table 7: No of children per family

Referring to table 7, it can be seen that families with 5 children are the most frequently found category.

The range of 3-7 children per family is the range of most children. This portrays a shift from traditional values to have as many children as possible to help in the particular family trade. Again the question of why only 5 children and not more or less. This could be due to the economic and physical constraints of new village living particularly in S.K. Cramped housing facilities discourages the presence of more children as each house cannot have more than 3 rooms and sometimes these rooms had to be shared with other relatives and tenants.

New villagers of S.K. used to be rubber tappers and labourers whose wages would be hardly enough to sustain a substantially large family. There is a particular family with 11 children. This is a divergent ^{case} from the average family in S.K. because the father is already 70 years old and all of his children are above 21 years old. He and his wife had their children even before settling in S.K.

Figure 8 presents a picture of the individual families with children in the various age-groups. It can also be seen that the major portion of the sample is made up of adults which consist of 46 % of the total number of families with children interviewed. These figures will be further compared with the figures of educational attainment and also the sex of these children of respondents.

No of children	I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Age-group											
0-10	2	1	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
11-15	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16-20	3	5	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 and above	3	3	4	1	2	2	1	1	-	-	1

Table 8: Age of Children.

Age-group	Percentage
0-10	17
11-15	9
16-20	28
21 and above	46
Total (%)	100
N= 159	

Table 9 : Age -group of children according to percentage.

Sex	Percentage
Male	52
Female	48
Total (%)	100
N= 159	

Table 10 : Children of respondents according to sex.

The information that there are 52 % male to 48 % female among the children of respondent is provided to give a comparison to the state statistics. The above figures work to a figure of 100 males to 92 females which ^{are} very much contrasting with the sex ratio of the state of Selangor which is 100 males to 105 females.

Many aspects of the lives of new village's youth ^{not} are included in this study mainly because it will be redundant as many other works and studies had already been done on them. Aspects such as marriage, leisure time and recreational, relationship within the family and also ' peer group ' grouping. One particular study into these areas is the one by Nyce. Nyce dealt with the various ways marriages of new villagers youth are conducted, how youth make use of their leisure time and also how brothers and sisters treated one another. However, it must be noted that this study was done more than 20 years ago and some of the information gathered had already become obsolete.

A good example of this is the leisure time activities of the new village youth. It was formerly attested that new villages' youth spent their leisure in coffee-shops, the local cinema or other recreational places. However with the technological advances today, the motorcycle is so readily available to the youths of new villages. Almost every household owns one or more of these motorcycles and

almost every male youth knows how to ride one. This had motivated them to be more willing to get out of the new villageto get entertainment. In S.K. this is particularly true where youths go to Kuala Lumpur to see the latest shows and also entertainment centres of the city. and to make full use of their leisure time. Often they would go to Kuala Lumpur in a group on motorcycles or even cars.

On weekends, excursions will be made to nearby resorts such as Templer's Park, Genting Highlands or even Port Dickson. No longer do they sit in coffee shops as often as their fathers do and this had brought about a shift in outlook. Today many new village youth will be more willing to move out of new villages than their fathers to look for better prospects in employment or even education. This had resulted in many probelms such as lack of manpower in new villages to continue with the occupations of their fathers. such as rubber tapping, tin-mining and also quite surprising coffin-making.

New villages used to be an important source of coffins though this activity had dwindled down because of the lack of skilled labour and the lack of interest among youths to become apprentices. As a result, coffin prices had risen substantially over the years and coffin designs had become less elaborate as machines take over the role of man. Perhaps years. These values had changed to the extent that it is quite

common to see young girls pillion riding with young boys on this lack of interest among youths of new villages in taking motorcycles and going to trips to Kuala Lumpur for entertainment. up the vocation of their fathers is due the stigma attached to the job itself, the low pay and the demanding working conditions. Not many youths would like to be coffin-makers or even a rubber tapper when there are opportunities to become skilled-labourers such as plumbers, welders and machine operators with better pay and working conditions.

In S.K., farmland had been left uncultivated, rubber trees untapped and also the tin-mines face lack of workers. In recent years, the bustling development of Kuala Lumpur had overspilled to S.K. as more and more housing estates are being set up to accomodate the migrants and populace of a growing city. Former rubber estates and tin mine areas are converted to housing land and this had forced the price of land to shoot up. The opening of new housing estates had also changed the life style of S.K. new villagers drastically.

All the above developments had brought a change in the traditional values of the inhabitants of new villages. Today it is acceptable to see a young girl and a young boy walking together ^{on} the streets of new villages. This action would be criticized 10 years ago. A young girl sitting pillion rider to a young boy on a motorcycle who is not her brother or relative would be an unthinkable sight in yester-years. These values had changed to the extent that it is quite

common to see young girls pillion riding with young boys on motorcycles and going to trips to Kuala Lumpur for entertainment. or still studying or haven't started schooling.

(Table II). It was also found that more than three-quarter

4.2 Work and Education of the new generation.

	Percentage of respondent's children
Working	58
Studying	36
Pre-school	6
Total (%)	100
N=159	

Table II: Vocation of Respondent's children.

	Percentage of Respondent's children
Staying with parents	76
Not staying with parents	24
Total (%)	100
N=159	

Table I2: Respondent's children and their place of residence

These shows that children of new villagers ventures out of new villages mainly because of marital reasons and also job opportunities and very rarely do they venture out

Based on the research sample it was found that 58 % of new villagers' children are working. While another 42 % are either still studying or haven't started schooling. (Table II). It was also found that more than three-quarter of these children are still staying with their parents. For those not staying with parents the breakdown of reasons are as follows.

	Percentage
Marriage	37
working elsewhere	60
Studying overseas	3
Total (%)	100
N=38	

Table I3: Reasons for not staying with parents.

Among those not staying with parents, the main reasons are job opportunities which caused them to stay away from S.K. and also the fact that some of them are married and have their own families outside S.K. The lone person (3%) under the column 'studying' is presently studying in a foreign university pursuing a degree in Business Administration. These shows that children of new villagers ventures out of new villages mainly because of marital reasons and also job opportunities and very rarely do they venture out

risen with S.K. youth's educational attainment. because of academic reasons. It is interesting to note that according to reliable sources, there are less than 5 persons presently undergoing tertiary studies in this new village.

Among those working in table II, there are three-quarter of them still staying with their parents. This is due to the fact that job opportunities abound in nearby Kuala Lumpur and its surrounding areas. The young workers of S.K. commute daily to their workplaces and return home every evening. As mentioned earlier in the chapter, the trend is changing in job aspirations as more and more people in S.K. are looking outside of S.K. for job opportunities. In the earlier days, youths will only aspire to look for jobs within the new village and its surrounding areas and very rarely do they go beyond. Today with the better infrastructure such as roads and public transport, the job market is being opened to them. Job opportunities are further enhanced by the rapid development in the Kelang valley and more vacancies exists thus increasing the labour demand.

Education should form one of the main areas of discussion when attempting to do a study of Chinese community for education is highly valued. Whether this is particularly true in S.K. will be discussed in this section. An accompanying table of national statistics of educational attainment among rural Chinese is provided as a basis of comparison with S.K. youth's educational attainment.

parison with S.K. youth's educational attainment.

Overall comparison at a glance will show that educational

Level of Education	Percentage of attainment
No Education	8.8
Primary	39.7
Lower Secondary	28.9
Upper Secondary	22.0
Tertiary	0.6
Total (%)	100

Table I4: Educational attainment of youths in S.K.

Education level	Percentage of attainment
No Education	22.0
Primary	64.2
Lower Secondary	6.8
Upper Secondary	5.9
Tertiary	1.1
Total (%)	100

Table I5: Educational attainment among rural Chinese

(Census : 1970)

Overall comparison at a glance will show that educational attainment of S.K. compared with national figures shows a marked increase. The level of people with no education had dropped from 22 % to 8.8 % in S.K. This difference of 13.2 % is a marked improvement as more people attended school after legislation were passed making primary schooling compulsory in the 1960s.

The figures for primary schooling had went down from 64.2 % to 39.6 %. These figures are however balanced with the increase in secondary education both in the lower and upper secondary levels. The lower secondary figures had risen from 6.8 % to 28.9 % while the upper secondary figures from 5.9 to 22 %. There is however a slight decrease in tertiary education of S.K. from 1.1 to 0.6 %. This slight decrease could be due to the imposed quota system for entry into local universities since the launching of the New Economic Policy.

It can be said that overall, the educational levels of S.K. residents had become better over the last few decades. But another interpretation could be drawn. Since independence, educational opportunities had been made more available to the masses. From compulsory primary education to automatic promotion giving virtually every child the opportunity to study right up to the lower secondary level.

However , after that level where tertiary education is concerned, new villagers have not improved at all from what they were before. No doubt, a marked increase in education at lower levels can be interpreted as an improvement. However the majority of new villagers are still employed in manual labour where the level is not of much importance to them.

Many a times, children were allowed to continue their education just because of the free schooling. Therefore, improvements can be accepted to have happened but values towards education could not have changed very much. Overall comparison of the educational attainment of the youths of S.K. with that of their parents, it can be said there is a marked improvement as more of the youth are turning to be literates.

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Rubber trees left untapped. Note that there is no collection cups at the tree to collect the latex.

In this chapter, discussion will be focussed on basic amenities and the budget of respondents.

House made of	Percentage
Wood only	27
wood and cement	50
Bricks only	23
Total (%)	100

Chapter 5
N=40

Basic amenities and budget

Table 16: Materials used to construct houses.

Water Supply	Percentage
Private tap water supply	100
Public tap water supply	-
Well water	-
Rain water	-
Other sources	-
Total (%)	100

N=40

Table 17: Water supply sources.

Electricity Supply	Percentage
Yes	100
No	-
Total (%) N=40	100

Table 18: Electricity supply.

In this chapter, discussion will be focussed on basic amenities and the budget of respondents.

House made of	Percentage
Wood only	27
wood and cement	50
Bricks only	23
Total (%)	100
N=40	

Table I6: Materials used to construct houses.

Water Supply	Percentage
Private tap water supply	100
Public tap water supply	-
Well water	-
Rain water	-
Other sources	-
Total (%)	100
N=40	

Table I7: Water supply sources.

Electricity Supply	Percentage
Yes	100
No	-
Total (%) N=40	100

Table I8: Electricity supply.

Houses in S.K. are generally much improved. Since the new village was set up 20 years ago many changes had taken place. Today, only 27 % of all houses surveyed are made of wood thus supporting the findings that living conditions as far as shelter is concerned are quite adequate. Moreover 100 % of all households enjoy private water supply and electricity supply.

5.2 Budget

While it is often impossible to obtain reliable data on the area of budget especially in the aspect of income, many a times careful observation can detect false information from respondents.

Is this house	Percentage
Rented	7
Your own	93
Total(%)	100
N=40	

Table I9: Ownership of house.

The majority of respondents (93 %) need not pay rent which often forms one major portion of household expenditure. Moreover most household interviewed indicated that the combined income of the household is more than 1000 ringgits and the income is spent on expenditure such as households needs, food, transport and many other things.

We will now draw conclusion to the various aspects of new village living researched upon. This study as stated in the first chapter is not a conclusive study but rather it aims to study a few aspects of new village living and this study serves more of a pilot study into the socio-economical aspects of new villages so often neglected by researchers both local and foreign.

S.K. as a new village set up 30 years ago with its physical structures fast changing in the face of development and around the new village itself. The physical structure is not of first preference in this study but rather the inhabitants are.

Respondents who form the focus of this research indeed are also who changes with the developments that time brings about. Many of the respondents are in their early twenties and marriage life when they were forced to resettle into new villages and had their freedom curbed. This decision by the colonial government to declare war on the communist terrorists and to forced resettlement directly affected these people. They were forced to live in cramped houselots with poor basic amenities. These respondents were suddenly forced to live in an 'urban' surrounding where a shanty township is created almost overnight to accommodate the people.

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Have these people changed drastically in their life style and if there are changes, what are the forces that causes these changes. In the economic sector, the developments of the Kelang valley had its direct influence to S.K. as the ever expanding job market opens its doors to the residents inside and outside the valley. These opportunities are likened as a stimulus for the new village. The gloomy market for their primary commodities such as rubber and tin so much more spurred them to diverge to other jobs.

Rubber estates were cleared and its precious land used to build houses. Even unstable disused mining land are not spared in the quest for more land to set up housing estates. The star theory of urbanization is rather true as S.K. forms part of the southern point of the star in the development of Kuala Lumpur.

6. The star theory is a theory in urbanization where the centre of development is likened to the centre of a star. These developments are branched in such a way that the developed areas forms a design somewhat like a star.

Educational values in S.K. are also ever undergoing changes. As educational excellence becomes a goal aimed by both parents and children in the light of more competitiveness in the job market more and more children are striving to achieve at least a good secondary education.

How does S.K. differs from 30 years ago ?

30 years ago, the new village was set up as a counter-measure to stop the insurgency of the communist terrorists. Today because of the situation where many people come together in a small area, economic and social activities prospered to make S.K. into a small but thriving town.

Questionnaire

Note: This questionnaire is to answered only by heads of households.

Please mark ✓ in the corresponding boxes.

I Personal details.

I.1 Age

I.2 Ability to read, write and speak:

	read	write	speak
i. English			
Appendix A			
iii. Chinese			
iv. Others.			
Please specify			

I.3 Number of years staying in this village

yourself	your wife

I.4 Is this the place
stayed longest

I.5 If No, where are
you from

I.6 Reason for
moving

yourself	your wife

Questionnaire

Note: This questionnaire is to answered only by heads of households.

Please mark ✓ in the corresponding boxes.

I Personal details.

I.1 Age (Upper)

I.2 Ability to read, write and speak:

	read	write	speak
i. English			
ii. Malay			
iii. Chinese			
iv. Others.			
Please specify			

I.3 Number of years staying in this village

yourself	your wife

I.4 Is this the place
stayed longest

I.5 If No, where are
you from

I.6 Reason for
moving

yourself	your wife

I.7 Highest level of education

(formal) reached.

- i. Primary
- ii. Secondary
- iii. (Lower)
(Upper)
- iii. College/
University

yourself

your wife

Children

I.8 Number of children:.....

(Questions I.9 to I.15 are found next page).

Others staying with you.

I.16 No.	I.17 Age	I.18 Sex	I.19 Relationship
I.12 Highest level of Education reached			
I.11 Studying /working			
I.10 Sex			

I.9
Age

2. PropertyHouse

2.1 House made of ?

- i. Wood only
- ii. Wood and cement
- iii. Bricks only

2.2 Water supply.

- i. Private tap water
- ii. Public tap water

iii. Well water

iv. Rain water

v. Other sources

2.3 Electricity supply

Yes

No

2.4 Is this house

- i. Rented
- ii. Your own

2.5 Type of land grant.

- i. Illegal
- ii. Temporary Occupation
Licence (TOL)
- iii. Leasehold
- iv. Freehold

2.6 Do you own any other land ?

land but work on land owned by others.

Yes

☐

2.10 What is No planted on the land you work on ?

2.7 If Yes, type of land owned.

i. Farming land

☐

ii. Housing land

☐

iii. Others (please

☐

2.11 What form of payment do you offer to owner of land ?
specify)

Questions 2.7 to 2.9: For those who owns farming land.

2.7 Do you work on your farming land ?

Yes

☐

No

☐

If no, is it leased to other people ?

3. Occupation

Yes

☐

No

☐

Your wife

2

3.1 Type of job.

2.8 What is planted on your land ?

3.3 Product i. _____

3.4 Temper ii. _____

Perman iii. _____

3.5 Day wages/

2.9 Estimated rent collected per month.

3.6 Other \$ _____

of income

3.7 Total income

per month

Questions 2.I0 to 2.I2: For those who do not own farming land but work on land owned by others.

2.I0 What is planted on the land you work on ?

1. _____
 4.1 Your Job
 ii. _____
 4.2 Your Wife's Job
 iii. _____
 4.3 Other sources

2.II What form of payment do you offer to owner of land ?

- i. Rent
 ii. Farm produce
 iii. Free

2.I2 Estimated income(Net) from farm. \$ _____

3 Occupation

Yourself

Your wife

1

2

3

1

2

3.1 Type of job.					
3.2 Place(Miles)					
3.3 Product					
3.4 Temporary/ Permanent					
3.5 Day wages/ Salary/Piece rate					
3.6 Other sources of income					
3.7 Total income per month					

4 Budget

Income Are you involved in any community projects

Yes

\$

4.1 Your Job

No

4.2 Your Wife's Job

5.2 If Yes,

4.3 Other sources

Positions held.

of income

ii. In village

Total

iii. In Education

iv. In Religion

Expenditure

v. In Politics

vi. In other institutions

4.4 Household

4.5 Rent Do you want your children to continue to live in this

4.6 Schooling

4.7 Fares

Yes

4.8 Rates(Water/

No

Electricity)

Their choice

4.9 Entertainment

4.10 Smoking/Drinking

6.1 Your main problems are

/ Gambling

4.11 Other forms of

expenditure

Total

5 Community

5.1 Are you involved in any community projects

Yes

No

5.2 If Yes,

Positions held.

i. In district

ii. In village

iii. In Education

iv. In Religion

v. In Politics

vi. In other institutions

5.3 Do you want your children to continue to live in this village ?

Yes

No

Their choice

6 Difficulties

6.1 Your main problems are

i. Housing

ii. Water

iii. Electricity _____

iv. Financial _____

v. Other Problems _____

6.2 Is your present income adequate ?

Yes

No

6.3 If No, how do you make ends meet ? _____

6.4 Do you have any savings ?

Yes

No

6.5 Purpose for saving _____

6.6 Does the present economic recession affects you in any way ? _____

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